

## MISSOURI CENTENNIAL EDITION

1821

1921

MISSOURI CENTENNIAL EXPOSITION AND STATE FAIR  
SEDALIA - AUGUST 8-20

## AUDRAIN COUNTY'S EARLY HISTORY

A Brief History of Audrain Co.  
and Mexico From Their Earliest Days—Interesting Side-lights On The Pioneers

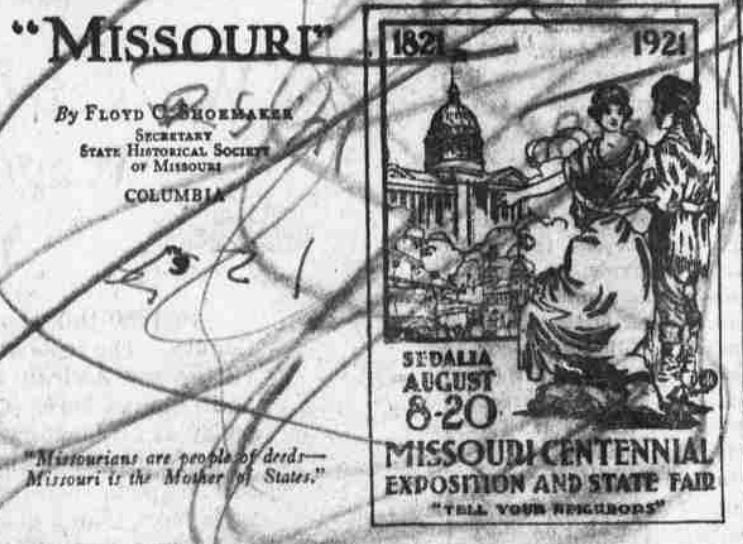
Audrain county was the forty-seventh county organized in the state of Missouri. It was originally a portion of St. Charles county. Its area consists of about 440,000 acres. It is bounded on the north by Monroe and Ralls, on the east by Pike and Montgomery, on the south by Montgomery, Callaway and Boone and on the west by Boone and Randolph counties. It lies on the divide between the Missouri and Mississippi rivers. Some of the streams heading in the county flow into one river and some into the other.

As the territory of St. Charles county was sub-divided into other counties by the territorial legislature, and the general assembly of the state after the adoption of the constitution of 1820, an unorganized piece of territory surrounded by other counties was left within the boundaries of no organized county. When Montgomery county was organized December 14, 1818, the unorganized territory west of it was attached to that county for military and civil purposes. Callaway county was organized December 14, however, in 1820, and for civil and military purposes, parts of what is now Audrain county were attached to them, and when Monroe county was organized January 6, 1831, a portion of the unorganized territory south

was attached. This accounts for the Boone and Ralls counties were created and records of Audrain county are found in the counties adjoining.

The legislature of 1830 discovered the fact that some of the early conveyances composing Audrain county, two bills were introduced into the house constructing that territory into a county. One proposed to name it Union county, the other "Ioway" county. The bill giving it the name of Union county passed the house, and, on being taken up in the senate, was amended to give it the name of Audrain county, in honor of the senator from the Eighth district, composed of Lincoln and St. Charles counties, James H. Audrain, who had died during the session.

The bill was signed by the governor, John Miller, and became a law, January 12, 1831. The bill provided that "So soon as there shall be inhabitants in said territory sufficient to entitle said designated county to a representative, by the then existing law of the land, the same shall be organized and entitled to all the rights and privileges of other counties in the state." The bill further provided that parts of the county should remain attached to Callaway, Monroe and Ralls counties, for civil and military purposes.



In a tavern, Missouri, the State, was born. The advent of birth so aroused the nation that Missouri has been called the stormy petrel of American politics. When, on July 19, 1820, the forty-one Fathers of Missouri, sitting in the old Mansion House Hotel in St. Louis, framed and adopted a constitution and, in their language, founded the "free and independent republic, by the name of 'The State of Missouri,'" another State was ready for admission. This admission was delayed until August 10, 1821—a year and twenty-two days later—but Missouri, with characteristic independence, proceeded to assume the duties and the privileges of a State. Regard for law and custom, equally characteristic, impel her to honor her centennial in the Union in 1921. Other States have birthdays; Missouri has birthyears.

The founding of an American commonwealth is significant to its people; the birth of Missouri was significant to the nation. Out of the original Missouri Territory, twelve states were formed; eight more lay beyond these to the westward. The roll of pioneers of these twenty-two made up largely of Missourians. Many of their settlers, constitution-makers, governors, legislators, judges, and congressmen were Missourians. Virginia is "the Mother of Presidents," Kentucky, "the Mother of Governors," and Missouri, "the Mother of States."

Under the Austins of Potosi, Missourians fought for Texas independence and later made homes in the "Lone Star" state by the tens of thousands. Settlers of the coast from Puget Sound to San Diego Harbor, Missourians first opened the inland gates of the Pacific to the flow of American immigration. Under Doniphan and his "One Thousand Missourians" they added the Southwest to the nation's domain and later sent the left wing of their beloved "Pap" Price's army to found Montana and Idaho. They gave Wisconsin, New Mexico, Colorado and California their first governors; they later provided executives for Arizona, Idaho, Utah and the Philippine Islands.

In war as in peace, the State has played her part. She sent her sons under Gentry to subdue the Seminoles in Florida, under Dodge to conquer Black Hawk in Illinois and Wisconsin, and under Nathan Boone to struggle with the western tribes for half a century. She furnished the "Xenander W. Doniphan, who triumphed in New Mexico, Durango and Chihuahua in '46 and '47. Seven decades later she gave a Pershing to the nation to repeat and enlarge these exploits. The man who was first to plant the American flag on Cuban soil was a Missourian—Arthur Lee Willard of Kirksville. Alone among states she sent 109,000 to wear the blue and 40,000 to don the gray. And in the late World War after April of 1917 she

poses as therefore until such organization should take place.

So far as the legislature is concerned, the territory thus constructed into Audrain county, was left to itself until it had acquired a sufficient number of inhabitants to entitle it to a representative. Then the legislature of 1830 passed an act authorizing the organization of the county. An act was approved December 17, 1830,

provided 138,310 Missouri boys, of which fifty per cent were sent abroad.

The wonder of Missouri is that she could give so much and still be great. Sending her sons and daughters to found states or still strive, Missouri retained on her fertile soil the seed of greater harvests. For literature the world's great humorist was sprung from her, and as companion to Mark Twain she bore Eugene Field and Winston Churchill. For art, Bingham was produced. For journalism, she adopted or reared King, Nelson, Pulitzer, and Williams. For science, she gave to the world the civil engineer, Eads. For education, she nurtured Blow, Harris and Woodward, and she sent to the forum the giants Benton, Blair, Green, Rollins and Vest.

A people of deeds are the citizens of the "Center State." Missouri born, three out of four; native born, nine out of ten—her citizens are types of the real American when given a chance. That chance has been the natural resources of Missouri, covering 69,000 square miles of fertile soil. Ranking seventh in population in 1910, she had three and one-half million persons to till her soil; gather her berry, apple and melon crops unsurpassed; mine her coal, lead and zinc; cut her millions of feet of timber; and make her factories productive. Cities she has of wealth and size: one, St. Louis, the sixth in the nation; another, Kansas City, the second railroad center; and livestock market in the world—financial centers, both, each with a Federal Reserve Bank. Still not an urban commonwealth is Missouri, for less than half her population lives in towns of 5,000 and over. A land of homes, churches and schools; of native Americans blessed in fertile acres and running waters, of mountains, woodlands, prairie and bottom; of cities and country—such is the "Center State," whose official motto, true to precept and practice, has been and always shall be: "Let the welfare of the people be the supreme law."

appointing Cornelius Edwards of Monroe county, William Martin of Callaway county and Robert Schoelling of Boone county, commissioners, for the purpose of selecting the seat of justice for the county, and vesting in them all necessary power for the organization of the county, and providing that they should meet on the first Monday of June, 1837, at the house of Edward Jennings, in "New Mex-

The history of Audrain county, which appears in this issue, is from the pen of the late George Robertson, a prominent attorney of Mexico, who spent much time in its preparation and who verified every line of it. Until its appearance in the Centennial Edition of the Ledger, it was only procurable in an edition of Missouri History which cost \$40. The State historical matter we published was prepared by experts for this edition.

ico," for the purpose of selecting and locating the permanent seat of justice of the county. The act further provided that he courts, both county and circuit, should be held at the house of the said Edward Jennings in "New Mexico." Subsequently the act was amended changing the date of the meeting to the first Monday of March, 1837.

The boundaries of the county as originally laid off by the legislature so remained until 1842, when the legislature passed an act further defining the boundaries of Monroe and Audrain counties, and a strip of territory one mile wide, in all thirty-one square miles was taken from the southern part of Monroe and added to Audrain county. As at that time defined the boundaries of Audrain county have ever since remained.

## THE COUNTY SEAT

On April 23, 1836, Robert C. Mansfield and James H. Smith, having entered the land upon which the original town of Mexico was located, filed a plat of the town at Paris, the county seat of Monroe county and gave the name of Mexico, in recognition of the excitement at that time in this state over the growing controversy between Mexico and the United States concerning the independence of Texas. These proprietors thought that the note of the name would bring popularity to the town. There is no warrant for ever having called the town New Mexico except through the mistake of the legislature in naming the commissioners, yet in the records of both the county and circuit courts for two terms, the place is designated as New Mexico. These records further state that the commissioners to locate the county seat met, and the first courts were held at the house of Edward Jennings. The commissioners met as directed by the legislature and located the county seat at Mexico, in consideration of the donation of certain lots and blocks to the county, and they further required an additional donation which has ever since been known as the donated or county addition to the town. These donations were accepted by the county and block twenty-five of the original town was set aside for the court house square.

## The First County Affairs

The first county "imposed" of James Harrison, James E. Fenton, and Ezekiah J. M. Doan, all appointed by the governor as county judges. James Jackson had been appointed sheriff by the governor but declined to qualify.

The court met on the 6th day of February, 1837, as the record has it, at the house of Edward Jennings, Doan not being present. Being without a sheriff, William Levaugh was appointed clerk. Joel Haynes was appointed clerk and gave bond in the sum of \$5,000, with John B. Morris, George W. Torley and James Jackson

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## Colonel Doniphan's Army of Missourians

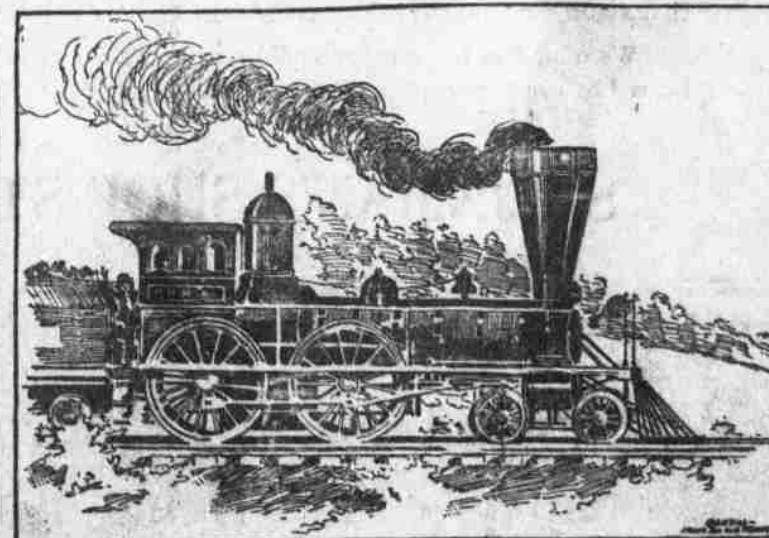


"THE longest military march in the history of the world" is said of Colonel Doniphan's expedition into Mexico during the Mexican War of 1846-48. The expedition marched a total of 3,000 miles through an uninhabited or hostile country, often without water or supplies of any kind. Difficulties tested to the utmost the endurance of those who took part in it. The men suffered from thirst; gnats, mosquitoes and wind-driven sand added to their discomfort; lack of rations forced them to subsist for weeks on one-third their normal amount of food; the heat of the desert and the cold of mountain passes alternated in causing hardship.

That the expedition was able to accomplish its mission with a loss of less than fifty men, counting those who fell in the sharply contested action at Sacramento, speaks volumes for the material of the command, and justly entitled the members to the enthusiastic reception which they received on their return.

Starting from Fort Leavenworth in June 26, 1846, the expedition reached Santa Fe on August 18, and took the town without resistance. After being joined

## First Locomotive West of the Mississippi, on the Pacific Railroad



REMEMBER the thrill you had the first time you saw an automobile? How everyone rushed to the windows to look out as it went by—and how you commented on the fact that it "looks so funny without a tongue in front of it?"

Then imagine the thrill of those mid-century Missourians who saw the first railroad locomotive west of the Mississippi on a memorable day in December, 1852. It stood on the Pacific railroad track in St. Louis just west of Fourteenth Street, and with Thomas Allen, president of the Pacific, and other officials and notables on board, made a trip out to the end of the track, a short distance beyond the Tower Grove Crossing. That was the beginning of railroad operation in Missouri.

The next red-letter day for St. Louis was July 19, 1853, when twelve passenger cars carried 600 official guests out to Franklin (as it was then called) to celebrate the opening of the first division, thirty-nine miles long.

Added by state bonds issued to help railroad building, other construction work was pushed rapidly. The Hannibal and St. Joseph Railroad, now the Burlington, was begun at Hannibal in the fall of 1851. The Iron Mountain, now the Missouri Pacific, was begun in October, 1853. The North Missouri, now the Wabash, was begun in May, 1859. What is now the Frisco was begun at Franklin (now Pacific) in 1858; the modern Katy was begun as the "Tebao and Neosho" at Sedalia in 1868; the C. and A. was begun at Louisiana in 1870 as the "Louisiana and Missouri River." Construction of the modern Santa Fe began in Missouri in 1887. The Rock Island entered the state in 1887.

## Daniel Boone On His Way to Missouri



DANIEL BOONE is the most picturesque and best known character of all the Americans who settled in what is now Missouri, prior to 1806. "I think it time to remove when I can no longer fell a tree for fuel so that its top will be within a few feet of the door of my cabin," he is credited with saying.

Born in Pennsylvania in 1732, Boone moved to North Carolina with his family when he was eighteen, where he married and began the rearing of his family. But game soon became scarce and Boone's great desire for frontier life and hunting led him to Kentucky in 1775, where he established Boonesborough. Soon Kentucky became "too crowded" and he migrated to Missouri.

The picture, which is sketched from the famous original by George C. Bingham, depicts the emigration of Boone and his family from North Carolina to Kentucky. The scene is laid in a mountain gap. Great rocky cliffs on each side, the mysterious darkness under their projecting

crags, blasted tree trunks and lowering clouds darkening the sky emphasize the danger of the undertaking and the bravery of the pioneers.

Boone leads the procession, looking intently to the front, holding his gun in one hand and with the other leading the horse upon which his weary wife sits. Behind Boone walks a companion. He, too, feels the responsibility of lives at stake, and strides forward with his whole body alert and his gun ready for use upon an instant's warning. Thus did sturdy pioneers journey fearlessly westward to precarious homes in the wilderness of Missouri.